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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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USSR-JORDAN: MOSCOW HAS BEEN GIVEN ITS LONG SOUGHT OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ARMS TO JORDAN.

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KING HUSAYN RECENTLY TOLD A US EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT JORDAN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HAS ASKED FOR SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN FURNISHING ANTEAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AS WELL AS MEDIUM- AND LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY. IN TELLING THE US GOVERNMENT THIS, THE KING IS SERVING NOTICE THAT JORDAN WILL NO LONGER LIMIT ITSELF TO WESTERN SOURCES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN ADDITION, JORDAN, IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-STANDING REQUEST, HAS APPROVED THE ASSIGNMENT TO AMMAN OF A SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE, WHO HAS SINCE BEEN NAMED.

AMMAN IS HIGHLY EMBARRASSED BY THE ALMOST DAILY, UNCONTESTED ISRAELI BOMBINGS OF JORDANIAN TERRITORY. THE LACK OF ANY EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS GREATLY Affected ARMY MORALE.

THE DECISION TO TURN TO MOSCOW STEMS FROM THIS AS WELL AS FROM AMMAN'S DISSATISFACTION WITH A BRITISH ANTEAIRCRAFT MISSILE SYSTEM, PRESENTLY ON ORDER BUT NOT YET DELIVERED. JORDAN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROCURE SUITABLE ANTEAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FROM WESTERN SOURCES. AMMAN'S CHANGE OF HEART UNDOUBTEDLY HAS BEEN WELCOMED IN MOSCOW, WHICH PROBABLY WILL AGREE TO SUPPLY SOME EQUIPMENT. THE ACQUISITION OF SOVIET ARMS WOULD BOLSTER HUSAYN'S STANDING AMONG THE ARAB NATIONALIST ELEMENTS IN JORDAN.

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